



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 February 2008

Current Nationwide



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- According to CNN, Power was restored Tuesday for most of Florida after a failed switch and fire at an electrical substation outside Miami triggered widespread blackouts across the state. The president of Florida Power & Light (FPL) said a disconnect switch failed at 1:08 p.m. at the automated substation west of Miami, and a piece of equipment that controls voltage caught fire about the same time. (See item [1](#))
- The Associated Press reports LAX will be getting the equivalent of street lights to prevent potential accidents. The system — called runway status lights — will rely on radar technology and red lights on the pavement at one of Los Angeles International Airport's four runways and at various taxiways to tell pilots when it is safe to cross them or take off. (See item [12](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *February 27, CNN* – (Florida) **Power restored to parts of Florida after outage.** Power was restored Tuesday for most of Florida after a failed switch and fire at an electrical substation outside Miami triggered widespread blackouts across the state. The president of Florida Power & Light (FPL) said a disconnect switch failed at 1:08 p.m. at the automated substation west of Miami, and a piece of equipment that controls voltage

caught fire about the same time. Neither failure by itself would have caused a widespread outage, he said. While the outages cut power to about two or three million people at its peak, power was quickly restored to most parts of the state and authorities said no injuries were reported. "These systems are all designed so that you can handle two contingencies," FPL's president said. "If you had a switch that failed, protective devices would have isolated the problem. That did not occur today. That's the part we don't have an answer for." The substation trouble set off a sequence of events that within three minutes knocked numerous power plants off-line. "In a fraction of a second, the demand was far greater than the power plants that were on line generating electricity could handle," FPL's president said. "When you have that kind of imbalance, we have a system that kicks in and it starts turning people's lights off, essentially balancing the demand with what's available." In Washington, a Department of Homeland Security official said there was no indication that terrorism was behind the blackout.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/02/26/florida.power/index.html>

2. *February 27, Muskegon Chronicle* – (Michigan) **Natural gas explosion in Grand Rapids.** On Tuesday in Grand Rapids' Eastown, a natural gas explosion collapsed a two-story building, injuring seven people. The 3:30 p.m. explosion sparked a fire that burned late into the night while utility crews worked to shut off the gas valves buried underground that fueled the flames. Before the blast, building occupants had contacted DTE Energy about an odor of natural gas. Once a worker got inside to look for the leak, he realized the building contained dangerous gas levels and said everyone should get out. "They were all evacuating the building when it exploded," a police lieutenant said. Firefighters sprayed water on the rubble but said little was left to burn other than natural gas. The gas finally was shut off around 9:30 p.m. DTE Energy workers said the ability to turn off the gas was hampered by the flames. Along with the gas leak in the building, a gas leak was detected under the road. Firefighters suspected that the leak under the road was caused by the explosion but were not certain. Firefighters stayed on the scene overnight in the event the fire rekindled.
Source: http://blog.mlive.com/chronicle/2008/02/chronicle_news_servicedave_rac.html
3. *February 27, Associated Press* – (International) **Oil surges to highest mark ever.** Oil prices broke through a new intraday high of \$102 a barrel Wednesday as a slide in the U.S. dollar prompted investors to pump more money into energy futures as a hedge against inflation. The dollar sank to a record low against the euro after the release of three U.S. economic reports Tuesday that show that the economy is slowing as prices for consumer goods rise. "Crude has cracked through the \$100-level again and that's driven by financial investors moving money into commodities markets," said an energy analyst with Purvin & Gertz in Singapore. "The U.S. dollar weakened against the euro and the economic data also indicated that inflation in the U.S. rose in January, and commodities are generally considered a hedge against inflation," he said. "We are therefore seeing these strong prices that have really little to do with oil market fundamentals." Analysts expect the U.S. Energy Department's Energy Information Administration to report later Wednesday that the nation's crude oil stocks rose last week by 2.4 million barrels, which would be the seventh straight week of gains. Gasoline inventories are expected to rise by 400,000 barrels while supplies of distillates, which include heating oil and diesel,

fell by 1.8 million barrels last week, according to a Dow Jones Newswires poll of analysts.

Source:

<http://money.cnn.com/2008/02/27/markets/oil.ap/index.htm?postversion=2008022704>

4. *February 26, WJAC 6 Johnstown* – (Pennsylvania) **Indiana County mine remains closed after fatal accident.** The Nolo Coal Mine in Indiana County, Pennsylvania, remained closed Tuesday as investigators try to learn more about Monday's fatal accident. A mine surveyor was killed when he was struck by a shuttle car inside the mine. The mine is owned by Amfire Mining Co. and is located near Yellow Creek State Park. Until Monday's accident, the mine – which opened in 2000 – had a good safety record. A mine surveyor said coal mines always contain risks, and though workers take many safety precautions, it is still dangerous work.

Source: <http://www.wjactv.com/news/15415391/detail.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *February 26, Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Injured worker identified in Branchburg chemical plant explosion.** The worker injured during Monday's explosion at a Branchburg, New Jersey chemical plant has been identified. He remains at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in critical but stable condition, a hospital spokeswoman said today. Environmental experts are still in the process of cleaning up following the fire at Voltaix, Inc. The blaze, reported at 11:33 a.m., was sparked by an unexplained explosion in a high-hazard room of the specialty gases manufacturer, authorities said. Fire officials determined the chemical fire could not be extinguished with water or foam and followed the manufacturer's recommendation to let the fire burn itself out. The fire, which was contained to a fire-safe room, was out by 9:30 p.m. Fears of the fire triggering another explosion were put to rest Tuesday morning after fire officials found the site of the explosion at room temperature, said a Branchburg Fire Marshal.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2008/02/explosion_at_branchburg_chemic.html

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *February 27, Reuters* – (International) **UN atomic agency: World nuclear security faltering.** The United Nations nuclear watchdog says that global nuclear security is faltering and has called on leaders to refocus on nuclear issues and kick-start a new round of disarmament talks. The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency said it was aware of 150 cases per year of nuclear material or weapons gone missing. "There continue to be many gaps in the current security system which make it vulnerable to abuse...this is actually the greatest danger we face – that nuclear weapons or material could fall into the [hands of organized crime or extremists]," he said. If extremists gained nuclear weapons they would "almost certainly be used," since the concept of

mutual deterrence that exists between countries with atomic arms is “totally irrelevant to extremist ideology,” he said.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/02/27/2173865.htm>

7. *February 27, SolancoNews.com* – (Florida) **Two Florida nuclear reactors shut down.** At approximately 1:09 p.m. Tuesday, Turkey Point’s two nuclear reactors (units 3 and 4) automatically shut down from 100 percent power in response to an “undervoltage” caused when two power distribution lines between Miami and Daytona went down following an equipment malfunction in a substation near Miami. The automatic trip of the reactors is a safety measure to protect plant equipment from abnormal power line voltages. The reactors are likely to be shut down for 12 to 24 hours, as part of a regular re-start protocol, with offsite power sources remaining available. Emergency diesel generators were not necessary. There are Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspectors on site closely monitoring the situation.

Source: http://www.solanconews.com/World/080227_FL_NRC-TurkeyPoint.htm

8. *February 26, Nuclear Energy Institute* – (National) **Nuclear plants are designed to respond safely to electrical grid disturbances.** The Nuclear Energy Institute’s executive vice president made the following remarks about nuclear power plant operations and design relative to the Florida nuclear reactors’ shut down: “Nuclear power plants are designed to shut down safely in response to electrical grid disturbances. They have been required to do so on many occasions over the years...As required by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, nuclear power plants have on-site emergency backup power supplies available that enable them to be maintained in a safe condition if sufficient off-site power is not available. Backup power typically is provided by diesel generators, and more than sufficient fuel supplies for the generators are present on-site as well. Once the electricity grid is functioning and ready to be re-energized, power plant operators will follow precise procedures designed to ensure the safe restart of the Turkey Point power station’s two reactors to return electricity to the distribution grid. The start-up process typically takes approximately five hours if the power plant is in a ‘stand-by’ rather than a ‘shutdown’ mode. Start-up times for affected nuclear plants will vary depending on circumstances at each facility. Nuclear power plants’ electronic security systems also have independent back-up power to keep them functioning. Beyond that, nuclear power plants are protected by a paramilitary security force of highly trained, well-armed officers.”

Source: <http://www.nei.org/newsandevents/newsreleases/floridapower/>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *February 27, Stars and Stripes* – (National) **New U.S. submarines trade nukes for SEALs.** The billion-dollar USS Ohio is the first of a new class of submarine created in a conversion of 1970s vessels by trading nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) for conventional cruise missiles and a contingent of commandos ready to be launched onto virtually any shore through rejiggered missile tubes – against conventional forces or terrorists. Over the next few months, the Ohio will be training

intensively in some of the world's most crowded and contested waters and joining in exercises with America's Asian allies. "The advanced capabilities that we have brought to this ship make it a premier front-line submarine," said the Ohio's executive officer. "This has taken the submarine force to a whole new level." The Ohio has both vast firepower and the ability to deploy quickly to wherever it is needed. It has 24 launch tubes, 15 of which have been fitted for multiple Tomahawks – more than 100 in total. That is more than were launched in the entire first Gulf War. From an offshore position in the Pacific, it could strike Pyongyang, North Korea. From the Indian Ocean, it could hit anywhere in Afghanistan. The switch to conventional missiles is a concept borne of necessity. Under a 1992 disarmament treaty, the U.S. Navy had to give up four of its 18 "boomers," huge submarines that have for decades served as mobile launch platforms for long-range nuclear missiles. Instead of scrapping the ships, however, the Navy converted them. The nuclear weapons were replaced with conventional Tomahawk guided missiles and several of the launch tubes refitted to deploy the Navy SEALs in submersible boats.

Source: <http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=52879>

10. *February 26, Versa Power Systems* – (National) **Fuel cell tested in UUVs.** Versa Power Systems, Inc., a developer of Solid Oxide Fuel Cells (SOFC) that generate clean electricity in compact form for both mobile and stationary applications, today announced its SOFC technology was successfully integrated into an experimental test bed representative of a propulsion system for stealth surveillance vehicles under development by the U.S. Navy. An SOFC stack was evaluated under conditions that simulate the expected demands on an Unmanned Undersea Vehicle (UUV). The design goals of the UUV are for it to operate autonomously, undetected, and conduct surveillance over lengthy periods. The in-flow of specially formulated fuel and the high system efficiency would allow a UUV that is 21 inches in diameter and approximately 20 feet long to run continuously for 30-60 hours depending on the power demand. Like combustion engine systems, fuel cell systems can be quickly refueled between missions – but they lack any moving mechanical parts so they are inherently silent and have much higher efficiency. And in comparison to batteries, which produce far less electricity at the end of a charge than at the beginning, fuel cells keep producing a steady flow of electricity for as long as fuel (logistic fuels or biodiesel) is supplied. The study was supported by the Office of Naval Research's Sea Warfare and Weapons Research Department.

Source:

http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/aircosmos/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&ndmConfigId=1006894&newsId=20080226005804&newsLang=en

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *February 27, Spartanburg Herald-Journal* – (South Carolina) **Sheriff warns about telephone scam.** The Cherokee County sheriff warned residents Tuesday of a telephone scam and advised against responding to instructions from an unsolicited telephone call. He said a woman told authorities she answered her phone recently and was told she

owed a large amount of money. When the woman disagreed with the caller and asked what she should do, she was told to press 1 on her phone keypad. When the woman complied, she thought the caller had hung up, but the sheriff said the call was transferred overseas. The amount of the call was added to the Cherokee County resident's telephone bill. "Citizens should be aware of this scam, and anyone who receives an unsolicited call and is asked to press a number on their phone should hang up, disconnecting the call," said the sheriff.

Source: <http://www.goupstate.com/article/20080227/NEWS/802270317/1051/NEWS01>

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Transportation Sector

12. *February 27, Associated Press* – (California) **LAX to get new runway safety system.**

The airport with the most near accidents and runway safety violations in the nation will be getting the equivalent of street lights to prevent potential accidents. The system -- called runway status lights -- will rely on radar technology and red lights on the pavement at one of Los Angeles International Airport's four runways and at various taxiways to tell pilots when it is safe to cross them or take off. The city paid \$6 million for the system and hopes to have it operational by early 2009. It is being tested at the airport, as well as at San Diego and Dallas/Fort Worth international airports, before the Federal Aviation Administration installs it at airports nationwide. For planes about to land or take off, the lights will blink on if the airport's ground radar detects another aircraft using the taxiways to cross from one runway to another. For planes waiting to cross a runway, the lights will illuminate if another jet is about to take off or land. The system has been used at San Diego and Dallas/Fort Worth airports for some time, and it has improved safety at both facilities, said an FAA administrator.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap_travel/20080227/ap_travel_brief_runway_safety;_ylt=AlpSt5ILObAY2tltGEzTEhys0NUE

13. *February 26, USA Today* – (National) **777's power loss concerns aviation officials.**

Passenger planes are not ever supposed to lose power in midair. That has been a foundation of design for decades -- yet a British Airways Boeing 777 did just that as it approached Heathrow Airport in London on January 17. Flight 038 from Beijing crashed 1,000 feet short of the runway after the aircraft's two massive jet engines would not produce thrust despite commands from the autopilot and, a few seconds later, the pilots. The crash of this popular workhorse of long-distance international flying -- 128 of which are operated by U.S. airlines -- has transfixed the world's aviation safety experts. Not only has the cause so far eluded accident investigators, but the potential impacts are enormous. In an era when so few aircraft crash, one of the most modern jetliners is under intense scrutiny because it failed in a way that never should happen in the lifespan of the entire fleet. "This is an extremely significant investigation," said the former chief aviation investigator with the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board. "You cannot have a loss of power in both engines. That's a big no-no." None of the 152 people on board died and only 13 were injured, but the results could have been catastrophic if the power loss had occurred just seconds earlier. Houses, industrial

buildings and roads surround the grass field next to the runway where the jet landed. The same source and other veteran aviation accident investigators said it is too early to indict the 777's safety. But the details of the crash at least raise the possibility that designers overlooked a vulnerability in the engines, the fuel system or the electronics. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-02-26-777_N.htm

14. *February 26, Associated Press* – (Wyoming) **Plane slides off runway at Wyo. airport.** Officials say a United Airlines jet carrying 121 people skidded off a runway when it landed at the Jackson Hole, Wyoming airport. There were no major injuries. An airport official says passengers used emergency slides to get off the plane after Monday night's mishap. The plane, arriving from Denver, was carrying 115 passengers and a crew of six. The National Transportation Safety Board plans to investigate the incident. Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5g-zoPP5jxJ59FmAm8uRrd3gQdYwQD8V25T000>
15. *February 26, CBS 4 Miami* – (Florida; National) **Dangerous airport close calls rise.** There is a growing crisis in the nation's airports, which has to do with safety in the sky. The CBS4 I-Team spent the past four months going through records many people do not know exist and found there have been more close calls at local airports than passengers know. Almost half a dozen aviation experts, who talked to the I-Team, worry that crowded peak airline schedules, fewer and fewer air traffic controllers due to massive retirements, and budget cuts are resulting in too many close calls between airplanes in the sky and on the ground. "Runway incursions represent the potential for catastrophic loss of life," said the director of operations from Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport. He continued, "I don't know if the public fully understands (how serious a problem it is) to the point where runway incursions are communicated (to the public)." The CBS4 I-Team discovered that despite public pronouncements to the contrary by the Federal Aviation Administration, runway incursions and near misses are a growing problem across the country and at South Florida's two major airports. Air traffic controllers told the I-Team the problem stems from money, or lack of it. The controllers, both retired and currently working, say the FAA's unwillingness to spend more money to hire more controllers, train new ones, and buy new technology to reduce near misses all contribute to the unsafe conditions. In February, the General Accounting Office released a report that mirrored what the I-Team found. The GAO called on the FAA to increase spending, hire and train more air traffic controllers and work harder and faster to install new technology to stop a disaster before it happens. Source: <http://cbs4.com/consumer/airport.airline.close.2.662454.html>
16. *February 26, CBS 4 Miami* – (Florida) **Airport near collision occurs after CBS4 report.** Another near collision on a runway was reported in South Florida, coming less than a day after an exclusive CBS4 investigation into close calls in the sky and on the state's airport runways. This latest close call involved a twin engine turboprop and a Boeing 757. Sources told the CBS4 I-Team that around 10 a.m. Tuesday, an American Eagle Airlines AT-72 made a wrong turn onto runway 26 L. At the same time the 757, operated by UPS, was being cleared for take off, doing 50 knots down the very same runway and headed straight for the turboprop when air traffic controllers intervened and

stopped both planes.

Source: <http://cbs4.com/iteam/Airport.Near.Miss.2.663392.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *February 27, Temple Daily Telegram* – (Texas) **Police lock down station: Tests run on white powder sent to Temple officer in letter.** Temple police officers were not allowed in or out of the police department for two and a half hours Tuesday night while the fire department tested white powder that was inside a letter that came to the station. The letter was addressed to an officer, who collected the letter from the front desk and took it to his office on the third floor of the building. He opened the letter and noticed the white powdery substance. He isolated his area and notified Temple Fire and Rescue. The immediate areas and staff were quarantined while the fire department conducted tests in the area. Preliminary results showed the substance to be non-hazardous, said a Temple Fire and Rescue public information officer.

Source: <http://www.temple-telegram.com/story/local/2008/02/27/47500>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *February 27, USAgNet* – (International) **New BSE case confirmed in Alberta. This makes 12.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has confirmed bovine spongiform encephalopathy in a six-year-old dairy cow from Alberta. The animal's carcass is under CFIA control, and no part of it entered the human food or animal feed systems. The CFIA says the age and location of the infected animal are consistent with previous cases detected in Canada. "This case will not affect Canada's Controlled Risk country status, as recognized by the World Organization for Animal Health," the agency said in a statement. "This status acknowledges the effectiveness of Canada's surveillance, risk mitigation and eradication measures. Based on science, it is not expected that this case should impact access to any of Canada's current international markets for cattle and beef." This is the twelfth case of BSE reported by the Canadian government since 2003.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=486&yr=2008>

19. *February 26, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **USDA killing blackbirds' cattail habitat for sunflower farmers.** Federal wildlife officials will target entire parcels of cattail-choked wetlands in North Dakota this year to kill the preferred habitat of sunflower-devouring blackbirds. Some 60,000 acres of cattail marshes in North Dakota have been destroyed since 1991 to try to keep blackbirds at bay, said the state director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services agency. Last year in North Dakota, about 4,500 acres of wetlands in 16 counties were treated. This year there will be enough money to treat about 8,000 acres. The herbicide is applied from a helicopter, at a cost to the government of about \$23 an acre. The USDA estimates blackbirds eat more than \$10 million worth of sunflowers each year in North Dakota, which accounts

for about half of the nation's sunflower production. Some 70 million blackbirds come through the Northern Plains each year, including about 6 million that stop in North Dakota, biologists say. Each blackbird can eat about an ounce of sunflower seeds daily. Source: <http://www.thedickinsonpress.com/ap/index.cfm?page=view&id=D8V27TAO1>

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Water Sector

20. *February 26, Reuters* – (National) **Top water utilities to study climate change.** Eight of the top U.S. water utilities are joining forces to study how rising sea levels, droughts, and other effects of global warming are taking a toll on supplies of drinking water, they said on Tuesday. The coalition, known as the Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA), said water agencies need access to the best possible climate change research as they prepare to invest hundreds of billions of dollars in infrastructure over the next 15 years. Members of the coalition include the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Denver Water, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, the Portland Water Bureau, the San Diego County Water Authority, the Seattle Public Utilities, and the Southern Nevada Water Authority. Altogether, the WUCA members supply drinking water for more than 36 million people, the alliance said. In its first official act, the WUCA said it is urging the U.S. Climate Change Science Program and researchers in the climate change field to improve and refine climate models to apply them at the regional or local level and to ensure that water providers have access to consistent climate data. The coalition also called on scientists to coordinate international research efforts and to develop tools for policy-making and planning for abrupt climate changes.

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUKN2636284020080226>

21. *February 25, Imperial Valley Press* – (International) **Canal lining angers Baja California governor.** Baja California's governor protested the cement lining of the All-American Canal while in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, according to Mexican news media. During the Winter National Governor's Association meeting this weekend, the governor reportedly complained that the encasement is negatively impacting agricultural and economic activity in the Mexicali Valley. He privately met with the secretary of the Department of the Interior on Sunday and discussed "water issues along the U.S.-Mexico border," confirmed a spokesman for the secretary. Mexican and Baja California lawsuits had held up construction of the lining for about year. The cement lining of a 23-mile stretch of the canal is under way to recapture 67,000 acre-feet of water per year that would otherwise seep into the Mexicali Valley. Baja California's governor reportedly discussed the canal with other border governors, about the possibility of storing Colorado River water in U.S. dams, desalination plants, and applying agricultural technology, presumably to mutually benefit both countries, according to media reports. The 80-mile All-American Canal is the Imperial and Coachella valleys' only source of water from the Colorado River, a spokesman for the Imperial Irrigation District said. He also said the additional 67,000 acre-feet of water that is expected to get captured from the lining will not deduct Mexico's legal and established allotment from the Colorado River, 1.5 million acre-feet per year. The captured water is scheduled to be transferred to

the San Diego County Water Authority.

Source: http://www.ivpressonline.com/articles/2008/02/26/local_news/news04.txt

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *February 27, Reuters* – (International) **WHO rules out human transmission in bird flu deaths.** All three Chinese who died of the H5N1 strain of bird flu this year had contact with sick poultry, the World Health Organization said on Wednesday, adding there was no evidence of transmission between humans. With the world's largest poultry population, China is at the center of the fight against bird flu, which scientists fear could mutate into a form that can pass easily between people, sparking a pandemic. China has reported four outbreaks of the disease in poultry since December – the latest announced on Tuesday – as temperatures across the country have hit their lowest in decades.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSPEK3253320080227>
23. *February 27, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma) **Health officials bump up Oklahoma flu outbreak to epidemic status.** Influenza activity has changed from “widespread” to “epidemic” in Oklahoma and conditions could get worse before they improve, health officials say. “This epidemic is placing a significant strain on our health care systems, our workplaces and our schools due to high rates of absenteeism,” the state epidemiologist said Tuesday. The Oklahoma Health Department's surveillance network of 35 health care providers, laboratories, and ambulance services statewide has reported an increase in cases during the past four weeks, she said, adding that she is worried that the epidemic could lead to not only more flu cases, but more deaths related to the virus.
Source:
http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?articleID=20080227_1_OKLAH15888
24. *February 26, CTV Canada* – (International) **WHO reports high rates of drug-resistant TB.** Doctors are finding more cases of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) than ever, according to a new World Health Organization (WHO) report. The report, Anti-Tuberculosis Drug Resistance in the World, is based on information collected between 2002 and 2006 on 90,000 TB patients in 81 countries. It is said to be the largest survey to date on the scale of drug resistance in tuberculosis. WHO estimates there are nearly half a million new cases of MDR-TB diagnosed worldwide each year. That represents about five per cent of all the global new TB cases that emerge annually. The study also found that extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB) – a virtually untreatable form of the disease – has been recorded in 45 countries. But because so few countries are equipped to diagnose XDR-TB, the report authors say they had limited data to fully assess the scope of the XDR problem. Tuesday's report from WHO found that the highest rate of multi-drug resistance was recorded in Azerbaijan, where nearly a quarter of all new TB cases (22.3 per cent) were reported as multi-drug-resistant. Other countries with high proportions of MDR-TB among new TB cases included Moldova, Ukraine, the Tomsk Oblast region of Russia, and Uzbekistan. But the true scale of the problem of drug-resistant tuberculosis remains unknown in some pockets of the world, the WHO authors report, because only six countries in Africa – which is thought to be

the region with the highest incidence of TB in the world – were able to provide drug resistance data for the report.

Source:

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080226/tuberculosis_who_080226/20080226?hub=World

Government Facilities Sector

25. *February 26, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Arundel student charged with setting off explosive device.** An Anne Arundel County, Maryland, high school student faces felony charges that he detonated a homemade explosive device in the parking lot of his school yesterday, authorities said. The device was made in part from a water bottle filled with a liquid toilet de-clogger, said the county schools spokesman. The student was charged as a juvenile with manufacturing a destructive device and possession of explosive material with the intent to create a destructive device, as well as reckless endangerment and destruction to property. Since the incident, the school was put on a precautionary alert this morning after hearing of a “nonspecific threat.”

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/annearundel/bal-bomb0226,0,6996411.story>

26. *February 26, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* – (Washington) **Mercer Island High School closes after bomb threat.** School let out early for Mercer Island High students Tuesday after the school received a bomb threat that turned out to be false. The school secretary received the bomb threat call, according to the Mercer Island School District. Students were then evacuated to the adjacent football stadium and later sent home. Mercer Island, Washington, police cleared the school at about noon after they scoured the campus with bomb-sniffing dogs.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/352726_bombthreat27.html

27. *February 25, My Nassau Sun* – (Florida) **School security up after MySpace threat report.** In Florida, West Nassau High School remained in a heightened state of security Monday after a 17-year-old student allegedly threatened on a Web site to come to school Friday and shoot fellow students. Three West Nassau students reported to high school personnel Thursday that another student’s MySpace Web site included the threat. School administrators contacted the Sheriff’s Office and the student was arrested that night. On Friday, school administrators put West Nassau on what the sheriff characterized as a “semi-lockdown.”

Source http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/022708/nen_250993529.shtml

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Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to Report

Information Technology

28. *February 27, The Register* – (National) **InfoJack Trojan burrows into Windows CE machines.** Hackers have created a Trojan capable of infecting mobile devices running Windows CE. The InfoJack Trojan spreads by either tricking mobile users into installing seemingly legitimate application installation files or if punters inadvertently use an infected memory card on vulnerable devices. The malware has been spotted circulating in China. InfoJack disables Windows Mobile application installation security. It sends the infected device's serial number, operating system, and other information to the author of the Trojan (a factor that explains the name of the malware). Infected devices are left vulnerable to the injection of further malware strains by allowing unsigned applications to be installed without a warning. Once infected, the homepage on a device's browser is changed. The malware contains a number of features designed to frustrate clean-up efforts by copying itself back onto disk to protect itself from deletion. Internet security firm McAfee warns that the Trojan has been distributed with Google Maps, applications for stock trading, and games. It adds that the Trojan's website is no longer reachable, due in part to an investigation by Chinese law enforcement officials. InfoJack is not unprecedented. A very small number of PocketPC viruses have been created over the last four or five years and, in at least one case, a Trojan capable of infecting Windows CE has been seen in the lab. InfoJack differs from its predecessors because it has been spotted in circulation, albeit to a modest extent. The spread of the malware provoked security clearing house US CERT to issue an alert: http://www.us-cert.gov/current/index.html#microsoft_wince_trojan. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/02/27/infojack_trojan/
29. *February 27, BBC News* – (International) **Details emerge on YouTube block.** Pakistan has rejected claims that it was responsible for blocking global access to the YouTube video clip site. YouTube was hard to reach this week following action by Pakistan to block access inside its borders for its hosting of a "blasphemous" video clip. Analysis suggests the block was taken up by net hardware that routes data effectively cutting off the site. But a spokeswoman for Pakistan's telecoms authority said the problem was caused by a "malfunction" elsewhere. The Peshawar office of the PTA issued a blocking order for YouTube last week in a bid to block access to a video clip the Pakistani government regarded as "very blasphemous." Analysis by net monitoring firm Renesys shows that the problems getting through to YouTube began as a result of the action taken by Pakistan Telecom to implement the block. Essentially, Pakistan Telecom took over some of the net addresses assigned to YouTube. Crucially the path it offered to this group of addresses was faster than the usual one used by the hardware, or routers, that speed traffic around the internet. Pakistan Telecom let this address change propagate to the routers of one of its partners – PCCW. Routers are constantly in search of faster ways to get the data passing through them to its destination so news about this faster path started propagating across many of the net's routers. However, because Pakistan Telecom was stopping the traffic reaching YouTube all the data reached a dead end. "While it is hard to describe exactly how widely this hijacked prefix was seen, we estimate that it was seen by a bit more than two-thirds of the internet," said a Renesys

company blog.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/7266600.stm>

30. *February 26, Computerworld* – (National) **‘Cold Boot’ encryption hack unlikely, says Microsoft.** Users can keep thieves from stealing encrypted data by changing some settings in Windows, a Microsoft Corp. product manager said as he downplayed the threat posed by new research that shows how attackers can inspect a “ghost” of computer memory. A senior product manager for Windows Vista security reacted Friday to reports last week about a new low-tech technique that could be used to lift the encryption key used by Vista’s BitLocker or Mac OS X’s FileVault. Once an attacker has the key, of course, he could easily access the data locked away on an encrypted drive. The method – dubbed “Cold Boot” because criminals can boost their chances by cooling down the computer’s memory with compressed gas or even liquid nitrogen – relies on the fact that data does not disappear instantly when a system is turned off or enters “sleep” mode. Instead, the bits stored in memory chips decay slowly, relatively speaking. Cooling down memory to -58 degrees Fahrenheit (-50 degrees Celsius) would give attackers as long as 10 minutes to examine the contents of memory, said the researchers from Princeton University, the Electronic Frontier Foundation and Wind River Systems Inc. And when they pushed the envelope and submersed the memory in liquid nitrogen to bring the temperature down to -310 degrees Fahrenheit (-190 degrees Celsius), researchers saw just 0.17 percent data decay after an hour. But the Vista security blog contended that such a risk is unlikely, as an attacker would need physical access to a machine in “sleep” mode, rather than in “hibernate” mode or powered off. But even as the Vista security blog downplayed the chance of an attack, it also spelled out ways users of BitLocker – the full-disk encryption feature included in Vista Ultimate and Vista Enterprise – could protect their laptops from a Cold Boot.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9064899&intsrc=hm_list

31. *February 26, CNET News.com* – (National) **Security experts warn of potential malicious AIR code.** On Monday, Adobe Systems rolled out its new Web 2.0 development tool, Adobe Integrated Runtime, or AIR. Following its release were some concerns from the security community. AIR, formerly Adobe Apollo, is a runtime environment that allows developers use HTML, Flash, AJAX, Flex, and other Web 2.0 tools to create desktop applications. One such application built using Adobe AIR comes from Nickelodeon Online. But some security experts are concerned about local file access by AIR applications. Recently, Firefox experienced a vulnerability that could have allowed remote attackers to access a targeted file system. To mitigate this, Adobe says it implemented a sandboxing environment, however, Adobe’s documentation suggests that the sandboxes are less secure than a Web browser’s sandbox. Additionally, Adobe says that AIR applications need to be digitally signed, however, these certificates can be self-signed. And many users will ignore the warnings and run untrusted applications. Finally, there is the potential for Cross-Site Scripting (XSS), SQL injection, and local link injection. While these threats are not limited to Adobe AIR, developers could gain a false sense of security by relying only on AIR’s weaker sandbox protection. Adobe has also provided the following: an informative article titled

“[Introduction to AIR security](#)” and a white paper; “[AIR Security](#)” (PDF). But the Sans Internet Storm Center site, notes that “many developers will be unaware of Adobe AIR security best practices or will knowingly take shortcuts that expose end users to attacks.”

Source:

http://www.news.com/8301-10789_3-9879587-57.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-20

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to Report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

32. *February 26, Associated Press* – (National) **Contaminant levels high in parks.** A sweeping, six-year federal study released Tuesday found evidence of 70 contaminants in 20 national parks and monuments. The substances detected ranged from mercury produced by power plants and industrial chemicals such as PCBs to the banned insecticides dieldrin and DDT. Those can cause health problems in humans including nervous system damage, dampened immune system responses, and lowered reproductive success. Much of the contamination is thought to have come from overseas – traveling global air currents from Europe and Asia. But researchers said they were surprised to find substantial contamination from the local use of legal pesticides, particularly in agricultural areas around Glacier, Rocky Mountain, and Sequoia and Kings Canyon parks. The \$6 million study is known as the Western Airborne Contaminants Assessment Project. It is the most comprehensive study to date on the distribution and concentration of contaminants outside developed areas, according to the project’s scientific director. Contrary to the conventional wisdom that remoteness means less pollution, he said many of the parks – particularly those at higher elevations and in colder climates – actually are at higher risk. Release of the study, which was coordinated by the National Park Service, came after a delay of several months. A Park Service

spokeswoman, said the delay was caused by the time needed to analyze the vast volumes of data collected, from 2002 to 2007. The study also included researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Forest Service.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gvacIXwi7v4uC7UtJIMVeY9uJqnwD8V2D8S81>

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Dams Sector

33. *February 27, Appeal-Democrat* – (California) **Seepage found in levees.** The state is finding some leaky spots in the ring of embankments that protect Marysville, California, from flooding, the Marysville Levee Commission heard Tuesday. Potential for underseepage has been found at nearly all the locations the state Department of Water Resources evaluated, said an engineer with MBK Engineers of Sacramento. He gave a report of the preliminary results from the state study. Seepage refers to the flow of water through or under a levee. Too much of it can undermine the earthen embankment and cause it to fail during a flood. In an interview, the engineer said about 70 percent of the Marysville levees will probably need some kind of work to fix seepage problems. While that does not mean the levees will fail – they have withstood a number of floods despite the problems – it does mean the trouble spots would have to be repaired to meet new standards for levees. New slurry walls would be the most likely fix because development rules out other options that would require too much land to be purchased. Source: http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/marysville_60799_article.html/embankments_levees.html
34. *February 26, WHIO 7 Dayton* – (Ohio) **Environmental, engineering groups question dam safety.** In the aftermath of the Minneapolis bridge collapse last summer, the safety of the nation's infrastructure came under new scrutiny. The American Society of Civil Engineers rated bridges nationwide as a "C," but gave dams a lower ranking of "D." The group said many aging dams, with a large percentage of them privately owned, pose a threat to public safety. The chief of dam safety with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, said dams are inspected once every five years. Some dams in the state enforcement program are inspected more often. "There are a lot of dams around the state that are class-one, high-hazard structures that have people downstream. That's the reason we exist, to protect those people to make sure those dams are designed properly and maintained properly," he said. The American Society of Civil Engineers is not the only group trying to raise awareness of dam safety problems. The Washington, D.C.-based group American Rivers has also joined the effort. A new dam safety initiative in Washington has already passed the U.S. House and is currently pending before the Senate. Source: <http://www.whiotv.com/news/15417283/detail.html>
35. *February 26, KBZK 7 Bozeman* – (Montana) **Gallatin County wants warning system for dam.** In Montana, members of the Gallatin County Commission are asking for grant money to help buy a warning system to alert residents in the event of a catastrophic collapse of the Middle Creek Dam in Hyalite Canyon. Officials say a recent feasibility

study shows there is little danger of Hyalite Dam breaching, but that an early warning system would potentially save thousands of lives if the dam ever collapsed. The study shows that a breach would send billions of gallons of water rushing from the mouth of Hyalite Canyon, inundating the county and destroying thousands of homes and businesses.

Source:

http://www.montanasnewsstation.com/Global/story.asp?S=7927398&nav=menu227_3

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